

# PRA

**PRACTISER.** *n. f.* [from *practise*.]  
 1. One that practises any thing; one that does any thing habitually.  
 We will, in the principles of the politician, shew how little efficacy they have to advance the *practiser* of them to the things they aspire to. *South's Sermons.*  
 2. One who prescribes medical treatment.  
 Sweet *practiser*, thy physick I will try, *Shakespeare.*  
 That ministers thine own death if I die.  
 I had reasoned myself into an opinion, that the use of physicians, unless in some acute disease, was a great venture, and that their greatest *practisers* practised least upon themselves. *Temple.*  
**PRACTITIONER.** *n. f.* [from *practise*.]  
 1. He who is engaged in the actual exercise of any art.  
 The author exhorts all gentlemen *practitioners* to exercise themselves in the transitory.  
 I do not know a more universal and unnecessary mistake among the clergy, but especially the younger *practitioners*. *Sw.*  
 2. One who uses any fly or dangerous arts.  
 There is some papistical *practitioners* among you. *Whitgift.*  
 3. One who does any thing habitually.  
 He must be first an exercised, thorough-paced *practitioner* of these vices himself. *South's Sermons.*  
**PRÆCOGNITA.** *n. f.* [Latin.] Things previously known in order to understanding something else; thus the structure of the human body is one of the *præcognita* of physick.  
 Either all knowledge does not depend on certain *præcognita* or general maxims, called principles, or else these are principles. *Locke.*  
**PRAGMA'TICK.** *adj.* [μεταγνῶστα; *pragmaticque*, Fr.]  
**PRAGMA'TICAL.** *adj.* Meddling; impertinently busy; assuming business without leave or invitation.  
 No sham so gross, but it will pass upon a weak man that is *pragmatical* and inquisitive. *L'Estrange.*  
 Common estimation puts an ill character upon *pragmatick* meddling people.  
 He understands no more of his own affairs, than a child; he has got a sort of a *pragmatical* filly jade of a wife, that pretends to take him out of my hands. *Arbutnot.*  
 The fellow grew so *pragmatical*, that he took upon him the government of my whole family. *Arbutnot.*  
 Such a backwardness there was among good men to engage with an usurping people, and *pragmatical* ambitious orators.  
 They are *pragmatical* enough to stand on the watch tower, but who assigned them the post? *Swift.*  
**PRAGMA'TICALLY.** *adv.* [from *pragmatical*.] Meddlingly; impertinently.  
**PRAGMA'TICALNESS.** *n. f.* [from *pragmatical*.] The quality of intermeddling without right or call.  
**PRAISE.** *n. f.* [prijs, Dutch.]  
 1. Renown; commendation; fame; honour; celebrity.  
 Best of fruits, whose taste has taught  
 The tongue, not made for speech, to speak thy *praise*. *Milt.*  
 Lucan, content with *praise*, may lie at ease  
 In costly grots and marble palaces;  
 But to poor Bassus what avails a name,  
 To starve on compliments and empty fame. *Dryden.*  
 2. Glorification; tribute of gratitude; laud.  
 He hath put a new song in my mouth, even *praise* unto our God. *Psalms xl. 3.*  
 To God glory and *praise*. *Milton.*  
 3. Ground or reason of praise.  
 Praiseworthy actions are by thee embrac'd;  
 And 'tis my *praise* to make thy praises last. *Dryden.*  
**TO PRAISE.** *v. a.* [prijsen, Dutch.]  
 1. To commend; to applaud; to celebrate.  
 Will God incense his ire  
 For such a petty trespass, and not *praise*  
 Rather your dauntless virtue. *Milton.*  
 We *praise* not Hector, though his name we know  
 Is great in arms; 'tis hard to *praise* a foe. *Dryden.*  
 2. To glorify in worship.  
 The shepherds returned, glorifying and *praising* God for all the things that they had heard and seen. *Luke ii. 20.*  
 One generation shall *praise* thy works to another, and declare thy mighty works. *Psalms cxlv. 4.*  
 Their touch'd their golden harps, and hymning *prais'd*  
 God and his works. *Milton.*  
**PRATSEFUL.** *adj.* [praise and full.] Laudable; commendable. Not now in use.  
 Of whose high praise, and *praiseful* bliss,  
 Goodness the pen, heaven the paper is. *Sidney.*  
 He ordain'd a lady for his prize,  
 Generally *praiseful*, fair and young, and skill'd in housewiferies. *Chapman's Iliad.*  
**PRAISER.** *n. f.* [from *praise*.] One who praises; an applauder; a commender.  
 We men and *praisers* of men should remember, that if we have such excellencies, it is reason to think them excellent creatures, of whom we are. *Sidney.*

# PRA

Forgive me, if my verse but say you are  
 A Sidney; but in that extend as far  
 As loudest *praisers*. *B. Johnson's Epig.*  
 Turn to God, who knows I think this true,  
 And useth oft, when such a heart mislays,  
 To make it good; for such a *praiser* prays. *Donne.*  
**PRAISEWORTHY.** *adj.* [praise and worthy.] Commendable; deserving praise.  
 The Tritonian goddess having heard  
 Her blazed fame, which all the world had fill'd,  
 Came down to prove the truth, and due reward  
 For her *praiseworthy* workmanship to yield. *Spenser.*  
 Since men have left to do *praiseworthy* things,  
 Most think all praises flatteries; but truth brings  
 That sound, and that authority with her name,  
 As to be rais'd by her is only fame. *Ben. Johnson.*  
 Firmus, who seized upon Egypt, was so far *praiseworthy*,  
 that he encouraged trade. *Arbutnot on Com.*  
**PRAME.** *n. f.* A flat bottomed boat.  
**TO PRANCE.** *v. a.* [pranken, Dutch; to set one's self to show.]  
 1. To spring and bound in high mettle.  
 Here's no fantastick mask, nor dance,  
 But of our kids that frisk and *prance*;  
 Nor wars are seen,  
 Unless upon the green,  
 Two harmless lambs are butting one the other. *Wotton.*  
 With mud fill'd high, the rumbling cart draws near,  
 Now rule thy *prancing* steeds, lac'd charioteer. *Gay.*  
 Far be the spirit of the chase from them,  
 To spring the fence, to ruin the *prancing* steed. *Thomson.*  
 2. To ride gallantly and ostentatiously.  
 The horses' hoofs were broken by means of the *prancings*,  
 the *prancings* of their mighty oaks. *Judges v. 21.*  
 I see  
 Th' insulting tyrant, *prancing* o'er the field,  
 Strow'd with Rome's citizens, and drench'd in slaughter,  
 His horses' hoofs wet with patrician blood. *Addison.*  
 3. To move in a warlike or showy manner.  
 We should neither have meat to eat, nor manufacture to cloathe us, unless we could *prance* about in coats of mail, or cat brags. *Swift.*  
**TO PRANK.** *v. a.* [pranken, Dutch.] To decorate; to dress or adjust to ornament.  
 Some *prank* their ruffs, and others timely dight  
 Their gay attire. *Fairy Queen.*  
 In wine and meats she slow'd above the bank,  
 And in excess exceeded her own might,  
 In sumptuous tire she joy'd herself to *prank*,  
 But of her love too lavish. *Fairy Queen.*  
 These are tribunes of the people,  
 The tongues o' th' common mouth: I despise them:  
 For they do *prank* them in authority  
 Against all noble sufferance. *Shakespeare.*  
 Your high self,  
 The gracious mark o' th' land, you have obscur'd  
 With a swain's wearing; and me, poor lowly maid,  
 Most goddess-like *prank'd* up. *Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.*  
 'Tis that miracle, and queen of gems,  
 That nature *pranks*, her mind attracts my soul. *Shakespeare.*  
 I had not unlock'd my lips  
 In this unhallowed air, but that this jugler  
 Would think to charm my judgment as mine eyes,  
 Obtruding false rules, *prank* in reason's garb. *Milton.*  
**PRANK.** *n. f.* A frolick; a wild flight; a ludicrous trick; a wicked act.  
 Lay home to him;  
 Tell him, his *pranks* have been too broad to bear with. *Shakespeare.*  
 Such is thy audacious wickedness,  
 Thy lewd, pestil'rous and dissentious *pranks*;  
 The very infants prattle of thy pride. *Shakespeare.*  
 They caus'd the table to be covered and meat set on, which  
 was no sooner set down, than in came the harpists, and played  
 their accustomed *pranks*. *Raleigh.*  
 They put on their cloaths, and played all those *pranks* you  
 have taken notice of. *Addison's Guardian.*  
**PRA'NOR.** *n. f.* [πρανον.] A leek; also a sea weed as green as  
 a leek. *Bailey.*  
**TO PRATE.** *v. n.* [praten, Dutch.] To talk carelessly and without weight; to chatter; to tattle; to be loquacious; to prattle.  
 His knowledge or skill is in *prating* too much. *Tulser.*  
 Behold me, which owe  
 A moiety of the throne, here standing  
 To *prate* and talk for life and honour, fore  
 Who please to hear. *Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.*  
 This starved justice hath *prated* to me of the wildness of  
 his youth, and the feats he hath done about Tumbal-street;  
 and every third word a lie. *Shakespeare's Henry IV. p. ii.*  
 After Flammock and the blacksmith had, by joint and several *pratings*, found tokens of consent in the multitude, they  
 offered themselves to lead them. *Bacon's Henry VII.*  
 Oh listen with attentive light  
 To what my *prating* eyes indicate! *Cleveland.*  
 What

# PRA

What nonsense would the fool thy master *prate*,  
 When thou, his knave, canst talk at such a rate. *Dryden.*  
 She first did wit's prerogative remove,  
 And made a fool presume to *prate* of love. *Dryden.*  
 This is the way of the world; the deaf will *prate* of discords in music.  
**PRATE.** *n. f.* [from the verb.] Tattle; slight talk; unmeaning loquacity.  
 If I talk to him; with his innocent *prate*,  
 He will awake my mercy which lies dead. *Shakespeare.*  
 Would her innocent *prate* could overcome me;  
 Oh! what a conflict do I feel. *Denham's Sophy.*  
**PRA'TER.** *n. f.* [from *prate*.] An idle talker; a chatterer.  
 When expectation rages in my blood,  
 Is this a time, thou *prater*; hence be gone. *Southern.*  
**PRA'TINGLY.** *adv.* [from *prate*.] With tittle tattle; with loquacity.  
**PRATTIQUE.** *n. f.* [French; *prattica*, Italian.] A licence for the master of a ship to traffick in the ports of Italy upon a certificate, that the place, from whence he came, is not annoyed with any infectious disease. *Bailey.*  
**TO PRATTLE.** *v. n.* [diminutive of *prate*.] To talk lightly; to chatter; to be trivially loquacious.  
 But I *prattle*  
 Something too wilfully, and my father's precepts  
 I therein do forget. *Shakespeare's Tempest.*  
 What the great ones do, the less will *prattle* of. *Shakespeare.*  
 A French woman teaches an English girl to speak and read French, by only *prattling* to her. *Locke.*  
 There is not so much pleasure to have a child *prattle* agreeably, as to reason well. *Locke on Education.*  
 His tongue, his *prattling* tongue, had chang'd him quite  
 To footy blackness, from the purest white. *Ad. Ovid.*  
 A little lively rustick, trained up in ignorance and prejudice, will *prattle* treason a whole evening. *Addison.*  
 I must *prattle* on,  
 And beg your pardon, yet this half hour. *Prior.*  
 Let credulous boys and *prattling* nurses tell,  
 How if the festival of Paul be clear,  
 Plenty from lib'ral horn shall strow the year. *Gay.*  
**PRA'TTLE.** *n. f.* [from the verb.] Empty talk; trifling loquacity.  
 In a theatre the eyes of men,  
 After a well-grac'd actor leaves the stage,  
 Are idly bent on him that enters next,  
 Thinking his *prattle* to be tedious. *Shakespeare's Rich. II.*  
 The bookish theorick,  
 Wherein the tog'd confuls can propose  
 As masterly as he; mere *prattle*, without practice,  
 Is all his soldieriship. *Shakespeare's Othello.*  
 The insignificant *prattle* and endless garrulity of the philosophy of the schools. *Glauco.*  
**PRA'TTLER.** *n. f.* [from *prattle*.] A trifling talker; a chatterer.  
 Poor *prattler*! how thou talk'st?  
*Prattler*, no more, I say;  
 My thoughts must work, but like a noiseless sphere,  
 Harmonious peace must rock them all the day;  
 No room for *prattlers* there. *Herbert.*  
**PRA'VITY.** *n. f.* [pravitas, Lat.] Corruption; badness; malignity.  
 Doubt not but that sin  
 Will reign among them, as of thee begot;  
 And therefore was law given them, to evince  
 Their natural *pravity*. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. xii.*  
 More people go to the gibbet for want of timely correction, than upon any incurable *pravity* of nature. *L'Estrange.*  
 I will shew how the *pravity* of the will could influence the understanding to a disbelief of Christianity. *South.*  
**PRAWN.** *n. f.* A small crustaceous fish, like a shrimp, but larger.  
 I had *prawns*, and borrowed a mess of vinegar. *Shakespeare.*  
**TO PRAY.** *v. n.* [priere, Fr. *pregare*, Italian.]  
 1. To make petitions to heaven.  
 I will buy with you, sell will you; but I will not eat with you, drink with you, nor *pray* with you. *Shakespeare.*  
*Pray* for this good man and his issue. *Shakespeare.*  
 Ne'er throughout the year to church thou go'st,  
 Except it be to *pray* against thy foes. *Shakespeare.*  
 I tell him, we shall stay here at the least a month; and he heartily *prays*, some occasion may detain us longer. *Shakespeare.*  
 Is any sick? let him call for the elders of the church, and let them *pray* over him. *Jam. v. 14.*  
 Unskillful with what words to *pray*, let me  
 Interpret for him. *Milton.*  
 He that *prays*, despairs not; but sad is the condition of him that cannot *pray*; happy are they that can, and do, and love to do it. *Taylor's Guide to Devotion.*  
 Thou, Turnus, shalt atone it by thy fate,  
 And *pray* to heav'n for peace, but *pray* too late. *Dryden.*  
 He prais'd my courage, *pray'd* for my success;  
 He was so true a father of his country,  
 To thank me for defending ev'n his foes. *Dryden.*

# PRE

Should you *pray* to God for a recovery, how rash would it be to accuse God of not hearing your prayers, because you found your disease still to continue. *Wake.*  
 2. To entreat; to ask submissively.  
 You shall find  
 A conqueror that will *pray* in aid for kindness,  
 Where he for grace is kneel'd to. *Shakespeare's*  
*Pray* that in towns and temples of renown,  
 The name of great Anchises may be known. *Dryden.*  
 3. I *PRAY*; that is, I *pray* you to tell me is a slightly ceremonious form of introducing a question.  
 But I *pray*, in this mechanical formation, when the ferment was expanded to the extremities of the arteries, why did it not break through the receptacle? *Bentley's Sermons.*  
 4. Sometimes only *pray* elliptically.  
 Barnard in spirit, sense and truth abounds;  
*Pray* then what wants he? fourscore thousand pounds. *Pope.*  
**TO PRAY.** *v. a.*  
 1. To supplicate; to implore; to address with submissive petitions.  
 How much more, if we *pray* him, will his ear  
 Be open, and his heart to pity incline? *Milton.*  
 2. To ask for as a suppliant.  
 He that will have the benefit of this act, must *pray* a prohibition before a sentence in the ecclesiastical court. *Ayliffe.*  
 3. To entreat in ceremony or form.  
*Pray* my colleague Antonius I may speak with him;  
 And as you go, call on my brother Quintus,  
 And *pray* him with the tribunes to come to me. *B. Johnson.*  
**PRA'YER.** *n. f.* [priere, Fr.]  
 1. Petition to heaven.  
 They did say their *prayers*, and address'd them  
 Again to sleep. *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*  
 O remember, God!  
 O hear her *prayer* for them as now for us. *Shakespeare.*  
 Were he as famous and as bold in war,  
 As he is fam'd for mildness, peace and *prayer*. *Shakespeare.*  
 My heart's desire and *prayer* to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. *Romans x. 1.*  
 Sighs now breath'd  
 Inutterable, which the spirit of *prayer*  
 Inspir'd. *Milton.*  
 No man can always have the same spiritual pleasure in his *prayers*; for the greatest saints have sometimes suffered the banishment of the heart, sometimes are fervent, sometimes they feel a barrenness of devotion; for this spirit comes and goes. *Taylor's Guide to Devotion.*  
 2. Entreaty; submissive importunity.  
*Prayer* among men is supposed a means to change the person to whom we *pray*; but prayer to God doth not change him, but fits us to receive the things prayed for. *Stillingfleet.*  
**PRA'YERBOOK.** *n. f.* [prayer and book.] Book of publick or private devotions.  
 Get a *prayerbook* in your hand,  
 And stand between two churchmen;  
 For on that ground I'll build a holy descent. *Shakespeare.*  
 I know not the names or number of the family which now reigns, farther than the *prayerbook* informs me. *Swift.*  
**PRE.** [præ, Lat.] A particle which, prefixed to words derived from the Latin, marks priority of time or rank.  
**TO PREACH.** *v. n.* [predico, Lat. *predicare*, Fr.] To pronounce a publick discourse upon sacred subjects.  
 From that time Jesus began to *preach*. *Mat. iv. 17.*  
 Prophets *preach* of thee at Jerusalem. *Neb. vi. 7.*  
 Divinity would not pass the yard and loom, the forge or anvil, nor *preaching* be taken in as an easier supplementary trade, by those that disliked the pains of their own. *D. of Pir.*  
 As he was sent by his father, so were the apostles commissioned by him to *preach* to the gentile world. *D. of Pir.*  
 The shape of our cathedral is not proper for our *preaching* auditories, but rather the figure of an amphitheatre with galleries. *Graunt.*  
**TO PREACH.** *v. a.*  
 1. To proclaim or publish in religious orations.  
 The Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge, that the word of God was *preached* of Paul. *Acts.*  
 2. To inculcate publicly; to teach with earnestness.  
 There is not any thing publicly notified, but we may properly say it is *preached*. *Hooker.*  
 He oft to them *preach'd*  
 Conversion and repentance. *Milton.*  
 Can they *preach* up equality of birth,  
 And tell us how we all began from earth. *Dryden.*  
 Huge heaps of slain;  
 A good old man while peace he *preach'd* in vain,  
 Amidst the madness of th' unruly train. *Dryden.*  
**PREACH.** *n. f.* [prediche, Fr. from the verb.] A discourse; a religious oration.  
 This oversight occasioned the French spitefully to term religion in that sort exercised, a mere *preach*. *Hooker.*